

ROUSSEAU, DU CONTRAT SOCIAL, 1762.

This title comes in an 8to edition followed by a 12mo. The first edition 8vo comes in various states. Of the 12mo more pirated copies than regular first editions exist. In the booktrade it is therefore considered to be a difficult title. The bibliography is dominated by Dufour [1925] and Leigh [1990]. This paper combines the information on the first editions in both, supplemented with recent digital material and some additional observations.

Octavo

In OCLC is the following general description [in black, my suggested additions in red]:

- Titel:** [Principes du droit politique](#)
Du contrat social
Du [contract social](#)
- Auteur:** [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#)
- Jaar:** 1762
- Uitgever:** Amsterdam : Chez M.M. **Rey**
- Annotatie:** Half title: Du contract social
First ed. Corresponds with "Type B" in T.A. Dufour's Recherches bibliographiques sur les œuvres imprimées de J.-J. **Rousseau**, 1925, no. 133, except for differences in the setting of p. 321-323 as reproduced in facsim. by Dufour
Type A" of the 1st ed. (Dufour 132) has title: Du contract social; ou, Principes du **droit politique**
Catalogue de livres imprimez chez **Rey**, libraire à Amsterdam": p. [324]
- Omvang:** [4], viii, 323, [1] p, α β *4 A-V8 X4 α =halftitle, β =title.
- Formaat:** 20 cm
- Nummer:** (Library of Congress) 79385693

For type A and B titlepages see the pictures in the rear. Rousseau felt, that the A titlepage was too crowded, and to please him Rey replaced it by the B title. Another difference is that A contains in the last X quire a note on marriage, that is omitted in B. As a result the last chapter [Conclusion, 10 lines only] moves from p. 324 to 323 and the then blank 324 is filled with a catalogue of other Rey publications.

Leigh [1990] is quite content of the description by Dufour of the A and B types, and only adds a refinement of A as reflected in the description in Newton, the local catalog of Cambridge University Library:

Main Author: [Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 1712-1778.](#)

Uniform Title: [Du contrat social](#)

Title: Du contract social; ou, Principes du droit politique / par J.J. Rousseau, citoyen de Geneve.

Other Entries: [Martin, H. Bradley \(Henry Bradley\), 1906-1988, former owner.](#)
[Wokler, Robert, 1942-, former owner.](#)

Published: À Amsterdam : Chez Marc Michel Rey, 1762.

Description: [4],viii,323,[1]p ; 20cm (8vo).

Notes: Also issued as: Principes du droit politique. Amsterdam: Rey, 1762.
1st copy has the cancellans suppressing the note on civil marriage in sig. X.
2nd copy is another state, with both cancellans and cancellandum (paginated 321-324).
Provenance of 1st copy: bookplate of H. Bradley Martin, 20th cent. - From the library of Robert Wokler.
Provenance of 2nd copy: from the collection of R.A. Leigh.

References: Dufour, T. Rousseau, 132 type A

The [local] notes are a nice example of how a standard OCLC description can be detailed for the copy available in the local library.

The 1st copy has an A title and a B quire X, which Leigh proposes as a 2nd intermediate state. The Cambridge copy is printed on regular paper, uncut [193*120 mm.] and in later blue wrappers.

The 2nd copy is labeled an oddity by Leigh. Another such copy occurs in BNF. Also Dufour mentions one in his possession. In the Cambridge copy is a bookplate stating: purchased from R A Leigh. 1982. It has an A title and both the A and B X quire. Contemporary wrappers, which could be the same as the couverture primitive en papier de couleur referred to by Dufour. Both could be the same copy. Uncut regular paper as the 1st copy.

The local description of the BNF copy is:

RES-P-R-672

Type : texte imprimé, monographie

Auteur(s) : [Rousseau, Jean-Jacques \(1712-1778\)](#)

Titre(s) : Du contrat social ou Principes du droit politique [Texte imprimé]n par J. J. Rousseau,...

Publication : Amsterdam : M.-M. Rey, 1762

Description matérielle : VIII-324 p. : figure au titre gr. par C. Boily d'après B. Bolomey

Note(s) : Ex. du 1^{er} tirage de cette édition auquel a été ajouté le faux-titre du 2^e tirage portant : "Du Contract social" ; et qui contient à la fois les p. 321-324 du 1^{er} tirage avec la note sur le mariage à la p. 321 et les 4 p. du 2^e tirage sans la note et avec le "Catalogue des livres" à la p. 324
Titre alternatif : Principes de droit politique

Possibly another copy of this oddity is in Harvard:

Author : [Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 1712-1778.](#)

Title : [Du contrat social](#)

Title : [Du contract social; ou, Principes du **droit politique** / Par J. J. **Rousseau**, citoyen de Geneve ...](#)

Location : Houghton  *FC7 R7628 762c [On heavy laid paper with crowned shield watermark.]

Description : viii, 324 p. 21 cm.

Notes : Engraved title vignette.

"Type A", i.e., first issue, of the 1st ed. (Dufour 132).

"Catalogue de livres imprimez chez Rey, libraire à Amsterdam": p. [324]

Indexed by : Dufour 132

Not fully type A [see reference to catalogue], however stating 324 pp. certainly no B.

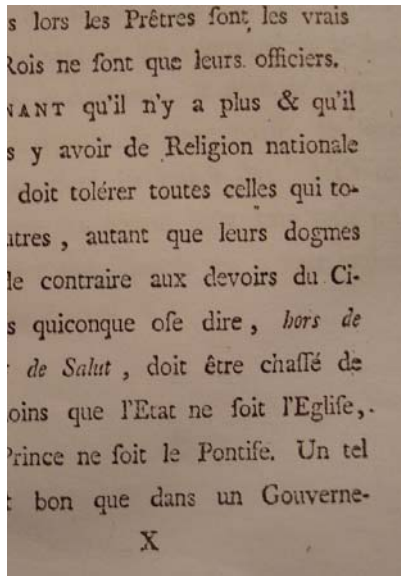
Note the heavy paper.

Harvard further has another copy in HOLLIS under the OCLC description of a B copy, which in the circumstances it must be.

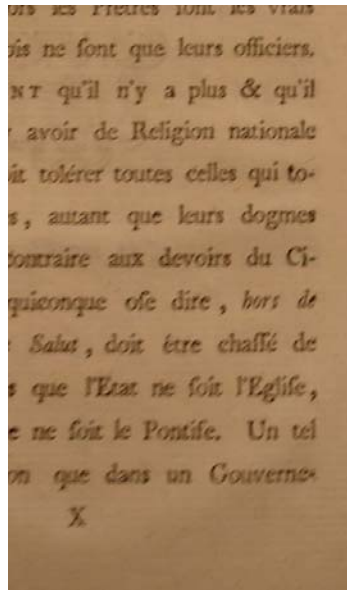
Variants within B

The OCLC description mentions some differences in the setting of p. 321-323 as reproduced in facsim. by Dufour.

Two such differences are on p. 321:

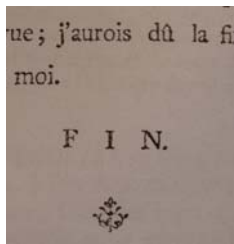


Dufour

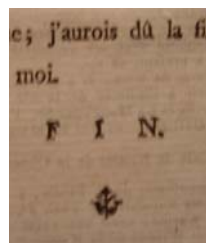


43876

In the Dufour reproduction the line ending *officiers* is not justified, in the other copy it is. Also the location of the quiremark X differs in those copies.



Dufour



43876

On p. 323 FIN and the decoration are a bit more to the right in the Dufour copy.

As Leigh calls copies with an A-title and a B-endquire second state, the B-endquires in the Cambridge copies must be the earliest. In his 3rd state the 43876-layout can then be best understood as early and that given by Dufour as late.

Indeed after *officiers* a new paragraph starts beginning with a capitalized first word. Thus the Dufour version is more correct, and the difference can be understood as an improvement.

The same can be said for the two other differences for reasons of symmetry.

A copy with the setting reproduced by Dufour is in the library of Leiden University.

In my collection is an early B copy:

[043876] Rousseau J. J.. PRINCIPES DU DROIT POLITIQUE. Amsterdam: Marc Michel Rey, 1762. (4), VIII, 323, (1) pp. 8to (192*126 mm). alpha beta *4 A-V8 X4. 1st edition, 3rd and final issue. Recent brown quartercalf with brown marbled boards and gilt title on spine. New plain endpapers. Edges sprinkled blue (not recent). Our copy of the Contract Social conforms to Dufour's Type B issue, with the title-page having the vignette of Liberty seated and the contentious section on marriage in the second corrected state. The setting of the last quire differ from that given by Dufour, suggesting it is an early B copy. Printing and the Mind of Man 207; Dufour 133; Tchermersine V 543.

To date I have never seen an A copy. Dufour quite extensively discusses the Neuchâtel and Genève copies, so it evidently does exist.

Duodecimo

In OCLC is the following general description:

Titel: Du [contract social](#), ou, [Principes](#) du [droit politique](#) / par J.J. **Rousseau** ...
Contrat **social**

Auteur: [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#)
Jaar: 1762
Uitgever: A Amsterdam : Chez Marc Michel **Rey**
Annotatie: Title in red and black; title vignette
Signatures: *4, A-H¹², I6 (*1 wanting)
Advertisements on p. [1]-[2] at end
Dufour, 134
Gangebin, no. 2 in Jean Jacques **Rousseau**. Oeuvres complètes. Paris, Gallimard, 1964, t.3
Omvang: [2], viii, 202, [2] p
Formaat: 17 cm. (12mo)

The pagination and collation do not agree. The collation of my copy and that in Cambridge is α [=title] *4 A-H¹², I6, which agrees with the OCLC pagination, and thus more correct.

Leigh labels this edition as a tap-edition. being collected works (mentioned on halftitle) also issued as separate issues (omitting the halftitle). Leigh (1990, p.22) and Dufour (1925, p. 136) confirm that this copy is such a separate issue. This omitted halftitle possibly is what * wanting in the OCLC description tries to refer to.

A picture of the title is in the rear. Comparing the engraving with that of the 2 type A titlepages present in Cambridge show that all three come from the same plate. However the Type A prints are more detailed than the 12mo. Only a few prints of type A having been made and 3600 12mo's this can be easily understood, as only the first 100 prints of an etching are fully sharp.

In Cambridge is the following copy:

Main Author: [Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 1712-1778.](#)

Uniform Title: [Du contrat social](#)

Title: Du contrat social; ou, Principes du droit politique / par J.J. Rousseau, citoyen de Geneve.

Other Entries: [Cuninghame, William, former owner.](#)

[Wokler, Robert, 1942-, former owner.](#)

Published: Amsterdam : Chez M.M. Rey, 1762.

Description: viii,202p ; 17cm (12mo).

Notes: Line 7 of p.1 ends: uti-

Provenance of 2nd copy: bookplate of William Cuninghame of Enterkine, 18th cent. - From the library of Robert Wokler

And further a copy of a related pirate edition:

Main Author: [Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 1712-1778.](#)

Uniform Title: [Du contrat social](#)

Title: Du contrat social, ou, Principes du droit politique / par J.J. Rousseau, citoyen de Geneve.

Published: Amsterdam : Chez M.M. Rey, 1762.

Description: viii,202p ; (12mo).

Notes: Line 7 of p.1 ends: utili-

A pirated edition, probably Dutch.

It seems a bit odd that based on the minor difference mentioned the second copy should come from a pirate edition. Upon autopsy of both copies other differences exist however. On title the etching is replaced by an ornament [see Leigh p. 55], different ornaments are used on p. VIII and 30 and the regular 1st edition having an ornament on p. 78 this is not present in the pirate. It also does not have publisher ads and the title is in black only.

In both copies page ends agree, however many other cut-off differences than the *uti-/utiti-* exist. So the second copy indeed must be a pirate.

Based on the ornaments used in the pirate possibly the actual printer can be determined, a method also used by Foxon [1963] on Fanny Hill.

In my collection is the following copy:

[043875] Rousseau J. J.. *DU CONTRACT SOCIAL; OU PRINCIPES DE DROIT POLITIQUE*. Amsterdam: Marc Michel Rey, 1762. (2), VIII, 202, (2) pp. α *4 A-G12 I6. First 12mo edition, published 6 weeks after the 1st 8to. Contemporary calf, spine renewed. Contemporary marbled endpapers.

For the titlepage see the pictures in the rear. A similar hat on stick as in the etching is shown on some editions of Schiller, *Geschichte der Abfall der vereinigten Niederlanden...*, 1788, and there commonly named "Freiheitshut". Leigh (1990) invented "tap-editions" being collected works (mentioned on halftitle) also issued as separate issues (omitting the halftitle). Leigh (1990, p.22) and Dufour (1925, p. 136) confirm that this copy is such a separate issue. In our copy line 7 on p.1 ends *uti-*. Cambridge has such a copy, and another (same collation) in which this line ends *utili-*. The last named a pirated edition. Other copies in Leeds and Oxford. 2 copies in NCC (UvA and Leeuwarden).

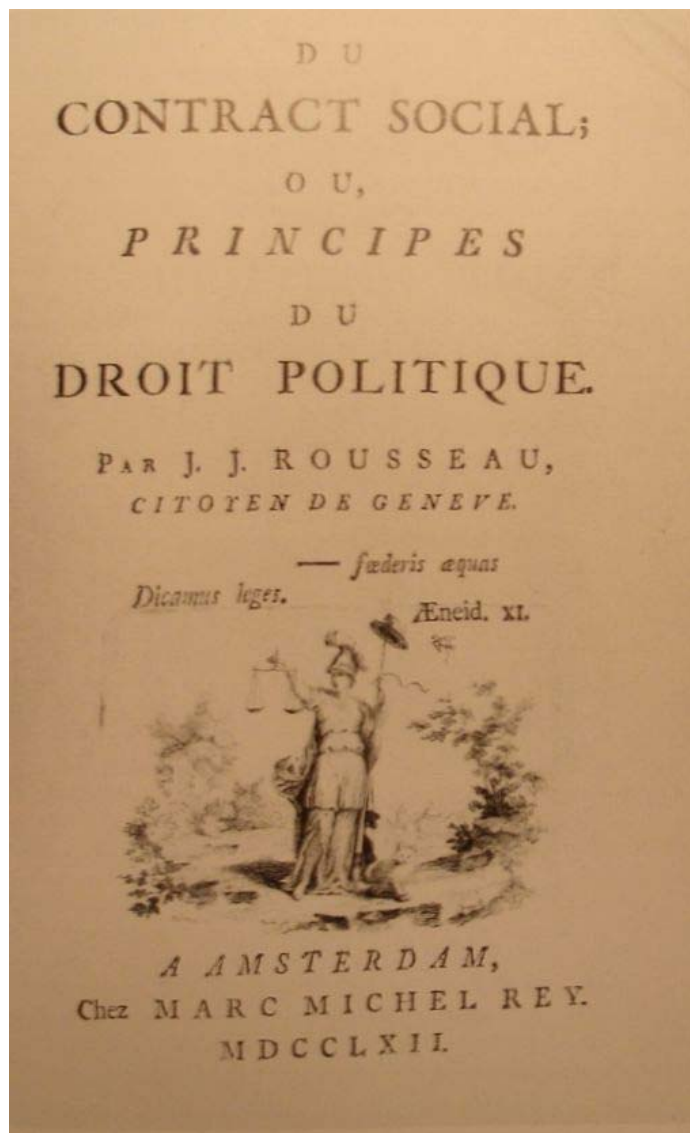
References

Dufour, Théophile, *Recherches bibliographiques sur les Oeuvres imprimées de J.-J. Rousseau*, Paris, 1925.

Foxon, David, *Libertine Literature in England*, 4 installments in *The Book Collector*, London, 1963.

Leigh, R. A., *Unsolved Problems in the Bibliography of J.-J. Rousseau*, Cambridge, 1990

Pictures of titlepages



Type A actual size

PRINCIPES
DU
DROIT POLITIQUE.

PAR J. J. ROUSSEAU,
CITOTEN DE GENEVE.

— *fœderis æquas*
Dicamus leges. Æneid. xi.



A AMSTERDAM,
Chez MARC MICHEL REY.
MDCCLXII

D U
CONTRACT SOCIAL;
O U
P R I N C I P E S
D U
D R O I T P O L I T I Q U E.

PAR J. J. ROUSSEAU,
CITOYEN DE GENEVE.

— *fœderis æquas*
Dicamus leges.

Æneid. xl.



A AMSTERDAM,
Chez MARC MICHEL REY.
MDCCLXII.